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COFFIN

FAMILY

HISTORY

Distributed by
Mary L. Davis

COFFIN FAMILY HISTORY

1705075

MRS. MARY L. DAVIS

825 LIME STREET

WATERLOO, IOWA

January 21, 1963

TO MY CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN,
MY NIECES, NEPHEWS, AND THEIR FAMILIES:

Several months ago I decided to take up two hobbies in addition to my regular activities. One is that of photography which I enjoy very much. While I can't say I know a great deal about taking pictures, I do have a fine camera and as an amateur, have had excellent luck and have received great satisfaction from this activity.

A second hobby or project which I want to share with each of you will be described in the paragraphs which follow:

Perhaps one of the signs of old age is that of an increased interest, not only in your own immediate family, but that of your family history and genealogy. As a very young girl I heard my mother, (Rachel Melinda Coffin McNichols), speak of the Coffin family having arrived from England and settling on the Islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, which are located about thirty miles off the Hyannis Port, Massachusetts coastline. These early memories together with an interest in perpetuating the history of our family have prompted me to place in your hands the information which I have gathered from different sources during the past year.

As several of you know, it was my privilege to visit the World's Fair at Seattle last year, an en route to Seattle I visited my first cousin, Mrs. Ruth Coffin Macy. While visiting Mr. and Mrs. Macy, who live in Vancouver, I found that Ruth had much information on the Coffin family because her husband's oldest brother, Mr. Aaron Macy, had made a study of this family. Later, during my trip I visited with Ruth's oldest sister, Mrs. Mable Gibler, who lives in Paradise, California, and she had additional information which she made available to me. My wish was to incorporate in Mr. Macy's writings, information on the McNichols branch of the Coffin family.

It is my fond hope some day to visit Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. Last summer my son, Boyd, attended Columbia University in New York for some post-doctoral work. While in the East he spent one weekend, first going to Hyannis Port by bus and, then, taking the ferry 30 miles out to visit this historical island village as far as the Coffin family is concerned. Among many points of interest on the island was the old Jethro Coffin home built in 1686. This home is furnished with many things from the family and is run by the Nantucket Historical Society. This home is one of the major tourist attractions on the island.

I do not wish personally to take credit for the main content of this booklet since Mr. Aaron Macy compiled much of it and prepared three typewritten copies for his family in November of 1951. I wish, however, to take the responsibility for including my family. The McNichols Branch of the Coffin Family, and of placing this bit of history in your hands. With the passing of older members of a family, much knowledge and history may be lost to future generations unless it has been properly recorded in some manner. In addition to the information provided by Mr. Aaron Macy, Mrs. Phillip Macy, and Mrs. Gartner, I want to thank Mrs. Lucile McNichols Loomis, Mrs. Dwight P. McNichols, Mrs. Margaret McNichols Eben, Mrs. E. C. McNichols and Mrs. Lavona Chapman who provided information on their families. Boyd's interest and resources together with my own have made this booklet larger and more complete than it would have been when I first planned the project.

The prominence of the Coffins is reflected in the publication of a 320-page book entitled, "The Coffin Saga" written by Will Gardner in 1948. This book is available by writing to the Nielang Museum Nantucket Island Massachusetts. The price is three dollars. For those of you who may be interested, I recommend the book very highly. I can't tell you how much enjoyment I have had these long winter evenings in reading "The Coffin Saga."

I note with great interest that my letter to you children is dated January 21, which is the 103rd birthday anniversary of my mother Rachel Melinda Coffin McNichols.

I hope and trust that you will have as much enjoyment in reading this saga as I have had in preparing it for you. Perhaps the Latin inscription on the Coffin Family Coat of Arms is just as meaningful for us today as it was for our family many generations ago. It reads: "After the darkness, we hope for the light from the sources of light."

Sincerely,

MARY L. DAVIS

Mary Luzena McNichols Davis: daughter of Rachel Melinda Coffin McNichols: sister of Ray, Ross and Roy McNichols: mother of Boyd Alonzo, Otto Lee, Millie Davis Crouse, and Leona Davis Grinnell; grandmother to eight wonderful grandchildren; and Aunt Mary to many fine and thoughtful nieces, nephews and families.

BOY MEETS 416 COUSINS

"Tristram Coffin, aged eight, attended a huge New England family reunion in Nantucket. When Professor David Coffin was invited to Nantucket to attend the first Coffin family reunion since 1881, he decided he would take his son and daughter and go. His son is named Tristram after the Coffin who came to America from England in 1642 to escape persecution and, with eight others, bought the 14-mile long island of Nantucket. Old Tristram was the progenitor of 75 grandchildren and seven generations of whalers. At the reunion, young Tris met 416 relatives of all ages and occupations, including one Coffin who owns a cemetery. They came from as far away as Oregon, Nebraska, California, Maine, Michigan, Kansas, Texas and Nova Scotia.

Tris stands for group picture of the Coffin clan at the Jethro Coffin House. Built in 1686 it is famous as the oldest house on Nantucket Island. Tris tagged along inspecting ancestral homes, meeting an almost endless number of relatives. Said one Tristram Coffin Colket II of Wyoming: "There are very few Coffins I'm ashamed of." Actually, the Coffin clan represents a cross section of America: a university chancellor, a paper millionaire, an RCA vice president, a congressman, writers, actors, bankers, lawyers, architects and teachers.

When young Tris Coffin is older, he will fully appreciate the once-in-a life time experience of attending his family reunion. The Coffin genealogical record is one of the most complete in the country, even though old Tristram's descendants may number as many as 100,000, dead and alive. They are scattered all over the world now, but in 1774, they controlled most of the 150 whaling ships that sailed out of Nantucket.

When whale oil was replaced by kerosene, the Coffins turned to other vocations, remembering their moto: After the darkness, we hope for light from the sources of light."

Coffin, Patricia, "Boy Meets 416 Cousins", Look Magazine, September 1, 1959. pages 84, 85, 86, 87, 88. Volume 23, Part II, July-December 1959. Photography (13 photographs of reunion) by James Hansen.

CHILDREN

John Shelly	March 18, 1816
Melinda Osborne Shelly	April 6, 1818
Dinorah Shelly	August 6, 1834
William Shelly	September 10, 1837
John M. Shelly	April 29, 1843
Rachel Lusena Shelly (This is Grandma Coffin)	August 14, 1839
Elizabeth Shelly	February 11, 1841
Richard Shelly (M) (The Mandolin man)	July 29, 1844
Catherine Shelly	March 23, 1847
Rebecca A. Shelly	December 5, 1848
James H. Shelly	February 5, 1853
Esther J. Shelly	August 20, 1850
David L. Shelly	July 29, 1852
Melinda Ellen Shelly	July 8, 1857

Thirteen children of which Grandma Coffin was ~~[illegible]~~ 6th

MARRIAGES

John Shelly and Melinda Osborne	October 10, 1835
John Green and Dinorah Shelly	February 15, 1853
William Coffin and Rachel Lusena Shelly	September 3, 1857
(This is Grandma and Grandpa Shelly, parents of Grandma Coffin)	
William Shelly and Sarah McClellan	February 22, 1860
Richard W. Shelly and Millie Lemon	January 31, 1865 (Mustache [illegible])
Bennett H. Campbell and Catherine Shelly	December 24, 1865 (Aunt Kate)
Walbur Hall and Esther J. Shelly	February 28, 1871
William Averhokes and Rebecca A. Shelly	December 5, 1873
James H. Shelly and Mary Meeman	
Richard W. Shelly and Clapherry	August 24, 1881 (Second Marriage)
Franklin W. Moore and Melinda Ellen Shelly	January 1, 1886

- -

This sheet does not actually belong in the Coffin Family History but I sha[illegible] include it since so [illegible] is known about grandma Coffin's family. As a very young child I can remember each of the grandparents Shelly since they spent their last years with grandpa Coffin. They had [illegible] than sitting in [illegible] the Coffins who [illegible] farm. Lily L. Davis

Mailing List for the Coffin Family History

The Ray McNichols Family

Mr. & Mrs. Dwight P. McNichols
3456 Prospect Avenue
La Crescenta, California

Suzanne Louise McNichols
Ray Dwight McNichols
Cheryl Lyn McNichols

Mr. & Mrs. Hyle Ray McNichols
606 North Mariposa
Los Angeles 4, California

Elaine Louise McNichols
Donald Hart McNichols

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Eben
2637 Rosewood Drive
Mesquite, Texas

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Armstrong
(Genice)
Dennis M. Eben
Wesley Karl Eben
Herman Eugene Eben

The Ross McNichols Family

Mrs. Verna McNichols
Winterset, Iowa

Mr. & Mrs. Homer H. Loomis
Madrid, Iowa (Lucile)

Charles W. Loomis
Homer Dean Loomis
Lois Arlene Loomis

Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur McNichols
309 East High Street
Winterset, Iowa

Melvin Ross McNichols
Marylyn Jane McNichols

Mr. & Mrs. Mervyn Armstrong
Earlham, Iowa (Ethel)

Loretta Dian Armstrong
Linda Kay Armstrong
Kenneth Mervyn Armstrong

The Ross McNichols Family (Continued)

Mr. & Mrs. Willard M. Nichols
Sidney, Iowa

John Jay McNichols
George Ruland McNichols
Janett Kay McNichols

Mr. & Mrs. Francis White
Winterset, Iowa (Blanche)

Gayle Joe White
Joyce Ann White

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth McNichols
Route 1, Oelwein, Iowa

Muriel Wayne McNichols
Vickie Lynn McNichols

The Roy McNichols Family

Rev. & Mrs. J. D. McNichols
6230 Beachcomber Drive
Long Beach, California

Mr. & Mrs. E. C. McNichols
3335 West Mc Dolland
Phoenix, Arizona

Mr. & Mrs. Jim D. Elsberg
115 South Arizona Street
Prescott, Arizona
(Sandra)

Gary John McNichols
Debbie Jean McNichols

Mr. & Mrs. L. R. McNichols
Welcewka, Oklahoma

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas L. Peacock
Medford, Oklahoma
(Sue)

The Mary McNichols Davis Family

Mrs. Mary L. Davis
829 Lime Street
Waterloo, Iowa

Dr. Floyd A. Davis
Long Beach State College
6101 East 7th Street
Long Beach 15, California

Mr. & Mrs. O. L. Davis
Melbourne, Iowa

Duane Allen Davis
Anita Marie Davis
Karen Lee Davis

Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Crouse
268 East Wheeling Street
Washington, Pennsylvania
(Millie)

Li Ann Crouse
Dennis White Crouse
Eugene Grover Crouse

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brintnall
435 Kimball
Waterloo, Iowa
(Leona)

Melody Lynn Brintnall
Tamara Sue Brintnall

* * * * *

Trust that copies prepared for the younger members of your family will be presented to them later, when they are old enough to have some appreciation for this booklet.

* * * * *

HISTORY OF THE COFFIN FAMILY

I have been looking up the history of the Coffin family and have traced our ancestors back to Sir Richard Coffin who accompanied William the Conqueror from Normandy to England in the Station of a General in the year 1066 and had lands assigned to him in the County Devonshire.

The authorities respecting the County Devonshire, make honorable mention of Sir Elias Coffin, Knight of Clist and Ingurby, in the days of King John; of Sir Richard, of Alvington, in the time of Henry II; of Jeffrey and Hembe Coffin under Henry III; and other Knights, descendents of these, during successive reigns, until the time of Henry the VIII, when we find Sir William Coffin, Sheriff of Devonshire, highly preferred at court, and one of eighteen assistants chosen by the king to accompany him to a tournament in France in the year 1519.

By his will he bequeathed his horses and hawks to the king and divided the manor of east Higgaton, Devonshire to his nephew, Richard Coffin Esq. of Porkledge.

FIRST GENERATION

Nicholas Coffin of Butlar Parish of Brixton, County Devonshire, England in his will, dated September 12, 1603, and proved at Tarnaus in Devonshire November 3, 1603, mentions his wife, Joan and five children, Peter, Nicholas, Tristram, John, and Anna

SECOND GENERATION

Peter Coffin of Brixton, son of Nicholas and Joan, married Joanna Phimber His will dated January 21, 1627 and proved March 13, 1628, mentions his wife, Joanna, and six children, Joanna, Deborah, Eunice, Mary, Tristam, and John. Mary married Alexander Adams and it is claimed that from this same Alexander Adams and Mary Adams that our Adams grandsire were descended.

THIRD GENERATION

Tristram, son of Peter Coffin and born at Brixton Parish, Devonshire, England in 1605. Married Dionis Stephens. Came to America in 1642 and first settled at Salisbury, Massachusetts. Moved thence to Newbury, and in 1660 moved to Nantucket Island. Their children were Peter, born in England in 1631. He married Abigail, daughter of Edward and Katherine Starbuck of Dover, New Hampshire, afterward of Nantucket. Tristram Jr, the second child was born in England in 1632. He married at Newbury, Massachusetts, March 2, 1652, Judith Somerby, widow of Henry and daughter of Edmond and Sarah Greenleaf. Elizabeth Coffin, the third child was born in England in 1634. She married in Newbury, Massachusetts, November 13 1651, Captain Stephen Greenleaf son of Edmond. Honorable James Coffin, the fourth child was born in England August 12, 1640. He married December 3, 1663, Mary, daughter of John and Abigail Severance of Salisbury, Massachusetts, and died in Nantucket July 28, 1720, age 80 years. John Coffin, the fifth child was born in England and died in Haverhill, Massachusetts, October 30, 1642 in infancy. Deborah Coffin, the sixth child was born at Haverhill, November 16, 1642 and died there December 6, 1642. Mary Coffin, the seventh child was born in Haverhill, February 20, 1645. She was married at the age of 17 to Nathaniel, son of Edward and Katherine (Reynolds) Starbuck and died at Nantucket, November 13, 1717. He died at Nantucket February 2, 1719. Lieutenant John Coffin the eighth child (a former John having died) was born at Haverhill, Massachusetts, October 30 1747. He married Deborah daughter of Joseph and Sarah Austin and died at Edgartown, Massachusetts, September 5, 1711. (From this John and Deborah Coffin our branch of the family has descended). Stephen Coffin the youngest child was born at Newbury, Massachusetts, May 10, 1652 and was about 8 years old when his father moved to

Nantucket. He married Mary, daughter of George and Jane Godfrey in 1668 and died at Nantucket November 14, 1734.

Note on Third Generation

Tristram Coffin came to America in 1642 and settled at Salisbury, Massachusetts. Early in 1660 in connection with nine other parties, two of whom were his sons, he purchased the Island of Nantucket, and resided there until his death in 1681. He was appointed Governor of Nantucket in 1673 and again in 1677. At this time the spelling was changed from Goffyn to Coffin.

FOURTH GENERATION

John Coffin son of Tristram and Dionis was born October 30, 1647 married Deborah, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Austin. Moved to Marthas Vinyard in 1682 Their children were Lydia born June 1, 1669 married John Logan and John Drafer of Boston and also Thomas Baxter of Bigham. Peter born August 5, 1671 married Christian Condy; second wife, Hope Gardner; John, born February 10 1673 married Anna Coleman; Love died single; Samuel born December 12, 1680 married Miriam Gardner; Hannah, born in Nantucket, married Benjamin Gardner; Tristram, married Mary Burkar; Enoch, married Bulah Eddy of Marthas Vinyeard; Deborah married Thomas Macy; Elizabeth died single; Benjamin born August 23. No further record is found.

FIFTH GENERATION

Samuel, son of John and Deborah Coffin, was born December 12, 1680, married Miriam, daughter of Richard and Mary Gardner. Their children were Deborah born 1708, married Tristram Starbuck; John, born 1708 married Keziah Folger; Parnell, married Robert Coffin; Sarah, married Samuel Stanton and James Pinkham. David, born 1718, married first Ruth Coleman, second Christine Allen; third, Eliza Clasby; William, born 1720 married Priscilla Paddock; Miriam born 1723.

married Richard Pinkham, Mary, born 1724, married William Barnard; Priscilla, born 1730, married Christian Coleman; Libni, dropped dead in cellar.

SIXTH GENERATION

William, son of Samuel and Miriam Coffin, was born in 1720, married Priscilla, daughter of Nathaniel and Ann Paddock, moved to North Carolina in 1773. Their children were Deborah, born April 21, 1945, married first, Abel Gardner, second Micajah Tarrel; Libni, born August 7, 1745 married Mepabeth Starbuck; William, born July 25, 1747 married first, Esther Hunt, second, Elizabeth Vestal; Samuel, born October 8, 1749 married first Dianna Carr, second, Mary Macy; Barnabas, born October 25, 1751 married Phoebe Marshall; Matthew, born February 23, 1754 married first Hannah Mendenhall, second Hannah Macy; Bethuel, born February 6, 1756 married first Hannah Dix, second Catherine Macy; Abijah, born May 22, 1760 married Elizabeth Robinson; Levi, born October 6, 1763 married Prudance Williams; Priscilla, born October 21, 1765 married Asa Hunt.

Levi Coffin of the underground railroad, was a son of Levi and Prudance Coffin. He and his wife Catherine Coffin were the Quakers who sheltered Eliza Harris, the fugitive slave woman mentioned by Harriet Beecher Stowe in Uncle Tom's Cabin, who crossed the Ohio River near Ripley with her babe on the floating cakes of ice.

Levi says the book is a true story, it being necessary to use fictitious names in some instances. At that time Levi Coffin claims to have sheltered more than three thousand fugitive slaves during his life, and never was caught with a slave in his possession, nor never told a lie to shield one. He visited Grandfather Coffin in Iowa only a short time before the war.

SEVENTH GENERATION

Bethuel, son of William and Priscilla Coffin was born February 6, 1756.

Married Hannah Dix. They lived in Guilford County, North Carolina. Their children were Elisha, born November 27, 1779, Zacharias born April 6, 1782, married Phoebe Starbuck; Paul, born March 3, 1784 Married Elizabeth W. Moody; Rebecca, born February 27, 1786 married Robert White. Hannah, born May 15, 1788 married Thomas Symons; Mary, born November 18, 1792 married Micah Newby; Bethuel born August 20, 1795, died young; Elijah, born November 17, 1793 married Naomi Hyatt; Bethuel Coffin's second wife was Katherine Macy. No children by this union.

Note on Seventh Generation

Bethuel and Hannah Coffin lived near where the Battle of Guildord was fought in the Revolutionary War and helped bury the dead and care for the wounded. Bethuel Coffin died in Indiana in 1837 and was buried near Greensboro, Henry County, Indiana.

Uncle Alfred Coffin, brother of grandfather Hervey Coffin had fits and made the coffee boxes and sugar buckets. Had only one child, Emily Shipp, and lived in Illinois. Hervey and Rachel Coffin lived in Guildord County, North Carolina and came to Henry County, Indiana in 1832. They had one child at that time and came in a one horse wagon. In 1835 they moved to Madison County, Indiana, in a heavily timbered country. He, with his brothers-in-law, Henry and Jaremiah Mills bought the first grain separator ever brought into that country. It had a possible limit of 60 bushels of oats per hour. He made 2 or 3 trips to Iowa and entered land in Hardin, Grundy, Greene and Dallas Counties paying $1.25 per acre. With their household goods loaded on 2 schooner wagons, 1 drawn by a team of horses, the other by 3 or 4 yoke of oxen and driving some other stock along, they left New Lancaster, Madison County, Indiana, April 14, 1856 and arrived at

Pleasant Plain, Iowa, on May 12, 1856, having been four weeks on the road.

EIGHTH GENERATION

Zacharias, son of Bethuel and Hannah Coffin was born in North Carolina April 6, 1782, and died at Westland, Indiana, August 21, 1865. He married Phoebe, Daughter of William and Jane Starbuck. She was born March 8, 1782, and died December 18, 1852. Their children were Abigail, married John Hubbard; Elihu, born March 11, 1807, married Sarah Brown. Cyrena married John Brown, Hervey, born August 4, 1810, died June 20, 1873, married Rachel daughter of Jeremiah and Deborah Mills. She was born November 3, 1808 and died August 7, 1873. Alfred born May 13, 1812 died April 2, 1869, married Nancy Weaver; John, married first Matilda Walker, second Mary Blessinger? Maria, married first J. G. Davis second, William Gathon, third Henry Hesketh. Nathan Dix married Mary H. Wheeler. Phoebe married first John White, second Johnathan Pavlen.

NINTH GENERATION

Hervey, son of Zacharias and Phoebe Coffin, was born August 4, 1810 and died June 20, 1873. He was married August 19, 1830, to Rachel, daughter of Jeremiah and Deborah Mills. She was born November 3, 1808 and died August 7, 1873. Their children were Ruth M., born July 3, 1831 and died July 15, 1895. She married Anderson, son of Mecheach and Ann Couch. Nathan Dix, born May 1, 1833, died April 25, 1907. Married Lydia, daughter of Richard and Susanna Shockley on August 19, 1859. William, born January 17, 1835, married Luscena, daughter of John and Melinda Shelley. Sarah Jane, born October 24, 1836, died 1907. Married James Shortridge, son of Harrison and Elizabeth Shortridge. Abigail, born on October 6, 1838, died January 18, 1894, married Bartholomew, son of David and Elizabeth Jones. Phoebe, born November 15, 1840, married James, son of David and Elizabeth Jones. Deborah, born October 5, 1842, married Milton, son of

John and Harriet Williams. Jeremiah, born December 20, 1844, married Martha, daughter of Jeremiah Bray. Henry born October 8, 1846, married Avis, daughter of Job and Margery Smith. Rachel, born October 21, died December 11, 1850. Mary Melinda, born May 4, 1851, died August 30, 1911. Married Newton, son of John and Harriet Williams.

TENTH GENERATION

William, son of Harvey and Rachel Coffin, was born January 17, 1835 and died February 14, 1927. He was married to Rachel Luzena, daughter of John and Melinda Shelley, September 3, 1857. She was born August 14, 1839, and died July 11, 1928. Their children were: James Henry, born August 18, 1858, died October 3, 1926. Married Mary Jane King, March 22, 1882. Rachel Melinda, born January 21, 1860. Married A. J. McNichols, February 28, 1884. Ida Effie born October 11, 1866, died March 16, 1868. William Sherman, born May 25, 1869, died September 13, 1870. Saveyta Jane, (known as Jennie), born August 21, 1872. Married John G. Cornelisen, October 3, 1911. Cora Lavona, born April 21, 1875, died February 11, 1905. Married Ward E. Rusher, January 9, 1895.

The Coffins are of Norman French descent. Near Palaise in Normandy is a large estate called Courritout, which belonged in the Coffin family until 1796, when the last Miss Coffin married Hon. LeCiere.

The principal seat of the Coffin family in England was at Portledge near Beddeford in North Devon, bordering upon Barnstaple Bay, now occupied by the family of John Richard Pine Coffin.

ELEVENTH GENERATION

James Henry, son of William and Luzena Coffin was born August 18, 1858, and died October 3, 1926. He was married March 22, 1882 to Mary Jane King, daughter of John V. King and Elizabeth King. Mary Jane King born June 14, 1857, died July 26, 1912. Their children were Mabel Ethel, born June 15, 1883, married

Albert Chester Gibler, November 4, 1906. Elva Luzena, born December 6, 1884, died January 21, 1925. Married Don D. DeCamp, April 19, 1905. After Don D. DeCamp died, she married Floyd Kennedy in December of 1912. James Melvin born April 11, 1[illegible] married Iva Hoeye on December 6 1904. Effie Elizabeth (known as Bessie) was born December 12, 1887. Married Jessie Cecil Harvey on November 25, 1908. He died August 28, 1933. John William, born May 21 1890 died October 5, 1890.

Cora Belle, born July 21, 1891, married Walter F. Kennedy on November 23, 1910. Clarence Burton, born September 28, 1893, married Bertha Leona Shears. Henry Virgil born October 6, 1895, married Marvel June Landis Harold Linden, born May 30, 1898 married Naomi Buckhead. He died April 11, 1948. Leona Ruth born July 22, 1900 married Philip C. Mary, September 28, 1921

Rachel Melinda, daughter of William and Luzena Coffin was born on January 2[illegible], 18[illegible] and died September 6, 1943. She married Alonzo J. McNichols on February 28, 1854 and he was deceased on May 11, 1946 Their three sons and one daughter were Ray Eugene, born February 6, 1885, married Mable Prouty on June 19 1915 and died December 25, 1952. William Ross born November 24, 1888 married Verna Leach on September 3, 1912 and died December 12, 1937 John Royal born December 14, 1889, married Bertha Richardson June 12, 19[illegible]2, she was deceased December 24, 1948 and he married Nina Holdiman May 14, 1949. Mary Luzena born July 5, 1891, married Grover White Davis on January 7, 1915, he was deceased December 21, 1960

FIRST GENERATION

COFFIN FAMILY HISTORY

[illegible] COFFIN [illegible]

of Buckler Parish, [illegible] County of Devonshire, England

Child of [illegible] (parents unknown)

Born [illegible] England

Died [illegible] Buckinghamshire County England
(Has will [illegible] 1703)

Aged
Married [illegible]
[illegible] England
Daughter of [illegible] (parentage unknown)
Born [illegible] England
Died [illegible] England
Aged

Children

1. [illegible] England
[illegible]

2. [illegible] England
[illegible]

3. [illegible] England
[illegible]

4. [illegible] England
[illegible]

5. [illegible] England
[illegible]

SECOND GENERATION

COFFIN FAMILY HISTORY

FIRST COFFIN #1

of Butler Parish, Brixton, County of Devonshire, England

1st child of Nicholas Coffin and Joan

Born - - 1552 at England

Died - - 1627 at England
(His will dated 1-21-1627 and proved 3-13-1628)

Aged

Married Joanna Bloomfield on
at England

Daughter of (parentage unknown)
Born - - 1592 at England
Died - - 1661 at England
Aged

Children

1. Joanna Born -- England
Married

2. Deborah Born -- England
Married

3. Eunice Born -- England
Married William Butler

4. Mary Born -- England
Married: Alexander Adams
(ancestor of the Adams presidents)

5. Tristram Born --1605, at Brixton, England
Married: Dionis Stevens

6. John Born -- England
Married

THIRD GENERATION

COFFIN FAMILY HISTORY

TRISTRAM COFFIN #15

5th child of Peter Coffin and Joanna Thomsons

Born - - 1605 at Brixton, Devonshire County, England

Died 1682 - 1681 on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts

Aged About 76 years

Married Dionis Stevens on
at England

Daughter of Robert Stevens and
Born -- at
Died -- 1682 at
Aged --

Children

1. Peter Born -- 1631, in England
Married Abigail Starbuck of Dover, N. H.
(moved to Nantucket Island)

2. Tristram Jr. Born -- 1632, in England
3-2-1682 Married Mrs. Judith (Greenleaf) Somerby
(at Newbury, Massachusetts)

3. Elizabeth Born -- 1634, in England
Married Captain Stephen Greenleaf
(at Newbury, Massachusetts)

4. James (hon.) Born -- 8-12-1640, in England
Married Mary Severence
(at Salisbury, Massachusetts)

5. John (1st) Born -- in England
Died 10-30-1642, at Haverhill, Massachusetts
Aged Young

6. Deborah Born -- 11-15-1642, at Haverhill, Massachusetts
Died 12-8-1642, at Haverhill, Massachusetts
Aged 22 days 3

7. Mary Born -- 2-20-1645, at Haverhill, Massachusetts
1662 Married Nathaniel Starbuck

8. John (2nd) Born -- 10-30-1647, at Haverhill, Massachusetts
Married Deborah Austin

9. Stephen Born -- 5-10-1652, at Newbury, Massachusetts
1668 Married Mary (Godfrey)
(on Nantucket Island in 1668)

COFFIN FAMILY HISTORY

TRISTRAM COFFIN # 15

Tristram Coffin was born in England, in the County of Devonshire, in the year 1605. We do not have the exact date.

Here he was married to Dionis Stevens (or Stephens) a daughter of Robert Stevens (or Stephens) but her mother's name was not obtained.

Their first five children were born in England, and in 1642, the family came to America. This would have been before 10-3-1642, as this is the death date given for the fifth child, John, who died at Haverhill, Massachusetts.

They settled at Salisbury, Massachusetts, and later moved to Newbury, Massachusetts, which was only a short distance from Salisbury.

In the summer of 1659, Tristram Coffin and eight other parties, (one his son, Peter) purchased the island of Nantucket.

In the spring of 1660, he moved the family to the Island, and resided there until his death in 1661.

He was appointed Governor of Nantucket in 1671, and again in 1677. At this time the spelling of the name was changed from COFFYH to COFFIN.

The following items regarding the children of Tristram Coffin.

Tristram #152 and Elizabeth #153, married a sister and a brother, both being a Greenleaf of Newbury, Massachusetts.

Mary #157 was known on the Island of Nantucket as the "Great Woman" and was the mother of the first white child born on Nantucket. She married Nathaniel Starbuck, who came to Nantucket with the first settlers.

POWER SIMULATION

COFFIN FAMILY HISTORY

JOHN COFFIN #158

8th child of Tristram Coffin and Dionis Stevens

Born: 10-30-1647 at Haverhill, Massachusetts

Died: 9-5-1711 at Edgerton, Massachusetts

Aged: 63 years, 10 months, 5 days

Married Deborah Austin on (about 1668)
at (probably Nantucket Island)

Daughter of Joseph Austin and Sarah
Born -- at
Died -- at
Aged --

Children

1 1. Lydia — Born: 6-1-1669, on Nantucket Island
Married (1) John Logan
(2) John Drafer of Boston, Massachusetts
(3) Thomas Baxter of Eigham

2 2. Peter — Born: 8-5-1671, on Nantucket Island
Married: (1) Christian Gendy
(2) Hope Gardner

3 3. John — Born: 2/10/1675, on Nantucket Island
Married Anna Coleman

4 4. Love — Born: -- on Nantucket Island
Died: Single, no age given

6 5. Samuel — Born: 12-12-1680, on Nantucket Island
Married: Miriam Gardner

7 6. Hannah — Born: -- at
Married: Benjamin Gardner

9 7. Tristram — Born: at
1914 Married: Mary Bunker

5 8. Enoch — Born: 1678 at
Married: Eulah Eddy of Martha's Vineyard

10 9. Deborah — Born: -- at
Married: Thomas Macy #67 on Nantucket

11 10. Elizabeth — Born: -- at
Died: Single (no age given)

8 11. Benjamin — Born: 8-23-1683 at
(no further records were found

COFFIN FAMILY HISTORY

JOHN COFFIN #158

John Coffin was born at Haverhill, Massachusetts, on 10-30-1647, the 8th child of Tristram Coffin and Dionis Stevens (or Stephens).

He is given as Lieutenant John Coffin, and believe this was in the State Militia of the State of Massachusetts.

He moved to Martha's Vineyard, from Nantucket, in 1682, but could have moved back to Nantucket again as it gives Deborah #1589 was married on Nantucket Island, to Thomas Macy #67.

He must have moved to the mainland of the State of Massachusetts, as his death is recorded at Edgerton, Massachusetts, on 9-5-1711.

FIFTH GENERATION

COFFIN FAMILY HISTORY

SAMUEL COFFIN #~~459~~ 6

~~5th~~ 6th child of John Coffin and Deborah Austin

Born: 12-12-1680 at on Nantucket Island
Died: - - at

Aged:

Married: Miriam Gardner on (about 1706 or 1707)
at (either Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket Island)

Daughter of: Richard Gardner and Mary
Born: -- at Nantucket Island?
Died: --
Aged:

Children

2 1. Deborah — Born: 6-4-1708, at
Married: Tristram Starbuck

(twins)

3 2. John — Born: 1-4-1703, at
10-4-1740 Married: Keziah Folger

1 3. Parnell — Born: 1706 at
no ch Married: Robert Coffin # 15136

5 4. Sarah — Born: 1712-13 at
12-14-1733-4 Married: (1) Samuel Stanton
(2) James Pinkham

6 5. David — Born: 2-12-1718, at
12-4-1741 Married: (1) Ruth Coleman
(2) Christine Allen
(3) Eliza Clasby

7 6. William — Born: 11-4-1720, on Nantucket Island
10-4-1740 Married: Priscilla Paddock
(these records in New Garden M. Mtg.
(of North Carolina)

8 7. Miriam — Born: 9-29-1723, at
1-13-1742 Married: Richard Pinkham

9 8. Mary — Born: - - 1724, at
11-5-1743 Married William Barnard

10 9. Priscilla — Born: 12-2-1730, at.
2-9-1748 Married: Christian Coleman

4 10. Libru — Born: - - 1710 at
Died: - - - at 1732
(dropped dead in a cellar)

COFFIN FAMILY HISTORY

SAMUEL COFFIN #1585

Samuel Coffin was born on Nantucket Island, on 12-12-1680, the 5th child of John Coffin and Deborah Austin.

He must have moved to the Island of Martha's Vineyard, off the shores of Massachusetts, in 1682, when his father, John Coffin, moved there as Samuel would have been only about two years old at this time.

From the data given regarding his father, it is possible that Samuel Coffin #1585, returned to Nantucket, as New Garden Monthly Meeting, of Guilford Co., North Carolina, records his son, William Coffin #15856, as being married to Priscilla Paddock on Nantucket Island, at the Sherbon Monthly Meeting, on 10-4-1740.

Have nothing at this time as to whether Samuel and his wife, Miriam went to North Carolina, or not, as their death date, nor place is not given.

Do have data regarding the son, William Coffin, #15856, as going to the New Garden Monthly Meeting, Guilford Co., North Carolina, in 1773. Other members of William's family went there also in the years 1771-1773-1790.

COFFIN FAMILY HISTORY

WILLIAM COFFIN #15836

6th child of Samuel Coffin and Miriam Gardner

Born: 11-4-1720 (OS) on Nantucket Island

Died: 11-10-1803 (NS) at New Garden Monthly Meeting, North Carolina

Aged: 83 years, 9 months, 15 days

Married Priscilla Paddock on 10-4-1740 at Sherbon M. Mtg., on Nantucket Island

Daughter of Nathaniel Paddock and Ann
Born: 7-18-1722 (OS) on Nantucket Island
Died: 7-15-1803 (OS) at New Garden Monthly Mtg., North Carolina
Aged: 80 years, 9 months, 16 days

Children

1. Deborah — Born: 3-31-1745, on Nantucket Island
   Married: (1) Abel Gardner
   (2) Micajah Terrel

2. Libni — Born: 8-7-1745, on Nantucket Island
   Married: Hepsabeth Starbuck

3. William Jr. — Born: 7-25-1747, on Nantucket Island
   Married: Esther Hunt (1)
   Elizabeth Bestal (2)

4. Samuel — Born: 10-8-1749, on Nantucket Island
   Married: (1) Dianna Carr
   (2) Mary Macy #6542

5. Barnabas — Born: 12-25-1751, on Nantucket Island
   Married: Phoebe Marshall

6. Matthew (NS) — Born: 2-13-1754, on Nantucket Island
   Married: (1) Hannah Mendenhall
   (2) Mrs. Hannah (White) Macy #6152

7. Bethuel — Born: 2-6-1756, on Nantucket Island
   Married: (1) Hannah Dix (or Dicks)
   (2) Catherine Macy #

8. Abigail — Born: 5-22-1760, on Nantucket Island
   Married: Elizabeth Robinson

9. Levi — Born: 10-10-1763, on Nantucket Island
   Married: Prudence Williams

10. Priscilla — Born: 10-11-1765, on Nantucket Island
    Married: Asa Hunt

COFFIN FAMILY HISTORY

WILLIAM COFFIN #~~1585~~ 67

William Coffin was born on Nantucket Island on 11-4-1720, the 6th child of Samuel Coffin and Miriam Gardner.

William Coffin and wife, Miriam, moved to the New Garden Monthly Meeting, of Guilford Co., North Carolina, in 1773.

All his children's birth dates were recorded in this Monthly Meeting Records, and recorded as being born on Nantucket Island. The birth dates of William and Miriam were also recorded there as born on Nantucket Island, and both dying at the New Garden Monthly Meeting.

Levi Coffin of Under-ground Railroad days, before the Civil War, was a son of Levi Coffin, the ninth child of the above William Coffin.

Levi Coffin Sr. married Prudence Williams, and Levi Coffin Jr. married Catherine (White?).

Levi and his wife, Catherine, were Quakers, who sheltered Eliza Harris, the fugitive slave woman, mentioned by Harriet Beecher Stowe, in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," who crossed the Ohio River near Ripley (Ohio?) with her baby, on the floating cakes of ice.

Levi said the book was a true story, it being necessary to use fictitious names in some instances. At that time, (?) Levi Coffin claims to have sheltered more than 3,000 fugitive slaves, during his life, and never was caught with a slave in his possession, nor never told a lie to shield one.

SEVENTH CONSIDERATION

COFFIN FAMILY HISTORY

A.D.R. 1965

BETHUEL COFFIN #158567

7th child of William Coffin and Priscilla Paddock

Born: 2-6-1756 on Nantucket Island

Died: - -1837 near Greensboro, Henry Co., Indiana

Aged: About 81 years

Married: (1) Hannah Dix (or Dicks) on 5-1-1776 at New Garden Monthly Meeting, Guilford Co., North Carolina

Daughter of
Born: --
Died: 10-10-1820
Aged:

at

at New Garden Monthly Mtg., North Carolina

Children:

1. Elisha Born: 11-23-1779, at Deep River MM, North Carolina
   4-25-1807. Married out of unity, No name.
2. Zacharias Born: 4-5-1782, at New Garden MM, North Carolina
   Married: Phoeba Starbuck on 9-29-1803
3. Paul Born: 3-23-1784, at New Garden MM, North Carolina
   Married: Elizabeth W. Moody
4. Rebecca Born: 2-27-1786, at New Garden MM, North Carolina
   Married: Robert White
5. Hannah Born: 5-15-1788, at New Garden MM, North Carolina
   Married: Thomas Symons on 5-1-1811
6. Mary Born: 11-18-1792, at New Garden MM, North Carolina
   Married: Micah Newby
7. Elijah Born: 11-17-1793, at New Garden MM, North Carolina
   Married: Naomi Hyatt on 2-2-1820
8. Bethuel Born: 8-20-1795, at New Garden MM, North Carolina
   Died: 7-2-1799, at New Garden MM, North Carolina
   Aged: 3 years, 10 months, 12 days

Married (2) Catherine Macy #167.75 on 1-31-1822 at New Garden Monthly Meeting, Guilford Co., North Carolina
Widow Maddock Macy #7

Daughter of ~~(parentage unknown)~~
Born: -- at
Died -- at probably Henry Co., Indiana
Aged --

No children

COFFIN FAMILY [illegible]

67

BETHUEL COFFIN [illegible]

Bethuel Coffin was born on [illegible] Island, on 2-5-1756, the 7th child of William Coffin and [illegible] Paddock.

While Bethuel Coffin and Hannah Dix were married at New Garden Monthly Meeting, and their first child, Elisha, was born at Deep River Monthly Meeting, they must have moved from New Garden Monthly Meeting to Deep River Monthly Meeting, and as the rest of the children were born at New Garden Monthly Meeting, moved back there again.

Both Monthly Meetings were located in Guilford Co., so it seems probable that it was a short move.

All the children showing a date of their marriage, was found in the New Garden Monthly Meeting records which would show that Bethuel Coffin and children, lived near this meeting for a long time.

His wife, Hannah Dix, died here and his second marriage was here also, but he must have later moved to Henry Co., Indiana, as he was recorded near Greenboro, Henry Co., Indiana. His second wife's name was not given.

Bethuel and Hannah Coffin lived near where the battle of Guilford was fought during the Revolutionary War, and helped bury the dead and care for the wounded.

Bethuel and Hannah and Elisha "received on certificate from" Deep River Monthly Meeting, North Carolina, on 5-27-1780, which was dated 5-1-1780. This was at the New Garden Monthly Meeting.

EIGHTH GENERATION

ZACHARIAS COFFIN #158~~5~~67 72

2nd child of Bethuel Coffin and Hannah Dix (or Dicks)

Born: 4-5-1782 at New Garden MM, Guilford Co., North Carolina

Died: 8-21-1845 at Westland, Indiana (Rush Co.?)

Aged: 63 years, 4 months, 15 days

Married: Phoebe Starbuck on 9-29-1803
at New Garden Monthly Meeting, Guilford Co., North Carolina

Daughter of William Starbuck and Jane
(they of Guilford Co., North Carolina. Most probable Nantucket stock.)

Born: 3-8-1782 at New Garden M. Mtg., North Carolina
Died: 12-18-1852 at (probably Westland, Indiana)
Aged: 70 years, 9 months, 10 days.

Children

1. Abigail — Born: 10-29-1805, at Dover MM, North Carolina
1-12-1822 Married: John Hubbard

2. Elihu — Born: 3-11-1807, at Dover MM, North Carolina
9-20-1828 Married: Sarah Brown

3. Cyrena — Born: 11-28-1808, at Dover MM, North Carolina
9-15-1831 Married: John Brown

4. Harvey — Born: 8-4-1810, at Dover MM., North Carolina
8-19-1830 Married: Rachel Mills

5. Alfred — Born: 5-13-1812, at Dover MM, North Carolina
Married: Nancy Weaver

6. John — Born: 11-19-1813, at Dover MM., North Carolina
Married: (1) Matilda Walker
(2) Mary Blessinger

7. Maria — Born: 12-17-1815, at Dover MM., North Carolina
4-21-1836 Married: (1) Jesse C. Davis
(2) William Cathon
(3) Henry Haskett

8. Nathan Dix (or Dicks) — Born: 11-16-1818, at Deep River MM., North Carolina
Married: Mary H Wheeler

9. Phoebe — Born: 11-12-1820, at Deep River MM, North Carolina
Married: (1) John White
(2) Jonathan Raules

COFFIN FAMILY HISTORY

ZACHARIAS COFFIN #1585672

Zacharias Coffin was born at the New Garden Monthly Meeting, in Guilford Co., North Carolina, on 4-5-1782, the 2nd child of Bethuel Coffin and Hannah Diz (or Dicks).

Found children 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - and 7, listed in the Dover Monthly Meeting records, of Guilford Co., North Carolina, but no birth dates were given.

Found all the children listed in both the New Garden Monthly Meeting, and the Deep River Monthly Meeting records, as those with Dover MM., were all located in Guilford Co., it seems very possible that Zacharias and family moved short distances, from his marriage on 9-29-1803, at New Garden MM., to Dover MM., and also to Deep River MM., by 11-21-1820.

Zacharias and family requested certificates to Deep River Monthly Meeting on 4-26-1816, from Dover MM.

At Deep River MM, Zacharias and family (sons Elihu, Harvey, Alford and John) received on certificate from Dover MM., dated 5-18-1816. Also, Priscilla and daughters (Abigail, Sirena, and Maria) received on certificate from Dover MM., also dated 5-18-1816. They were all received on 6-5-1816. This would show that all the children were born before the move to Deep River MM., except the last two children, who were born at Deep River MM.

At Deep River MM. on 3-7-1839, is recorded that Zacharias and family and child, Phoebe, get certificate to Walnut Ridge Monthly Meeting, Rush Co., Indiana.

NINTH GENERATION

AMR 1965

COFFIN FAMILY HISTORY

HARVEY COFFIN #1567724

4th child of Zacharias Coffin and Phoebe Starbuck

Born: 8-4-1810 at Dover M. Mtg., Guilford Co., North Carolina

Died: 6-20-1873 at Jefferson County, Iowa

Aged: 62 years, 10 months, 16 days

Married: Rachel Mills on 8-19-1830
at Deep River Monthly Meeting, Guilford Co., North Carolina

Daughter of Jeremiah Mills and Deborah

Born: 11-3-1808 at North Carolina
Died: 8-7-1873 at Jefferson County, Iowa
Aged: 64 years, 9 months, 4 days

Children

1. Ruth M. — Born: 7-3-1831, in Guilford Co., North Carolina; Married: Anderson Couch

2. Nathan Dix 8-19-1857 — Born: 5-1-1833, in Henry Co., Indiana; Married: Lydia Shockley

3. William 9-3-1857 — Born: 1-17-1835, in Madison Co., Indiana; Married: Rachel Luzena Shelley

4. Sarah Jane — Born: 10-24-1836, in Madison Co., Indiana; Married: James Shortridge

5. Abigail — Born: 10-6-1838, in Madison Co., Indiana; Married: Bartholomew Jones

6. Phoebe — Born: 11-15-1840, in Madison Co., Indiana; Married: James Jones

7. Deborah — Born: 10-5-1842, in Madison Co., Indiana; Married: Milton Williams

8. Jeremiah — Born: 12-20-1844, in Madison Co., Indiana; Married: Martha Bray

9. Henry — Born: 10-8-1846, in Madison Co., Indiana; Married: Avis Smith

10. Rachel — Born: 10-21-1849?, in Madison Co., Indiana; Died: 12-11-1850, in Madison Co., Indiana; Aged: Young

11. Mary Malinda — Born: 5-4-1851, in Madison Co., Indiana; Married: Newton Williams

COFFIN FAMILY HISTORY

HARVEY COFFIN #1585724 67

Harvey Coffin was born at the Dover Monthly Meeting, Guilford Co., North Carolina, on 8-4-1810, the 4th child of Zacharias Coffin and Phoebe Starbuck.

Harvey Coffin and wife, Rachel, lived in Guilford Co., North Carolina after their marriage, and went to Henry Co., Indiana, in 1832. They had one child at that time, Ruth M., and moved there in a one-horse wagon.

In 1835, they went to Madison Co., Indiana, in a heavy timbered country. Harvey, with his brothers-in-law, Henry and Jeremiah Mills, bought the first grain separator ever bought in that country. It had a possible limit of 60 bushels of oats per hour. He made 2 or 3 trips to Iowa, and entered land in Hardin, Grundy, Greene, and Dallas Counties, paying $1.25 per acre.

With their household goods loaded in 2 schooner wagons, one drawn by a team of horses and the other with 3 or 4 yoke of oxen, and driving some other stock along, they left New Lancaster, Madison Co., Indiana on 4-14-1856, and arrived at Pleasant Plains, Iowa, on May 12, 1856, having been on the road for four weeks.

TENTH GENERATION

WILLIAM COFFIN #155557243

Third child of Harvey Coffin and Rachel Mills

Born: 1-17-1835 at: Near New Lancaster, Madison Co., Indiana

Died: 2-14-1927 at: Adel, Dallas Co., Iowa

Aged: 92 years and 27 days

Married: Rachel Luzena Shelley on 9-3-1857
at Jefferson County, Iowa

Daughter of John Shelley and Malinda

Born: 8-14-1839 at:
Died: 7-11-1928 at: Adel, Dallas Co., Iowa
Aged: 88 years, 10 months, 27 days

1705075

Children

1. James Henry — Born: 8-18-1858, near Adel, Dallas Co., Iowa
3-22-1882 — Married: Mary Jane King (1)
Mrs. Samantha Harper (2)

2. Rachel Malinda — Born: 1-21-1860, in Dallas Co., Iowa
Married: A. J. McNichols on 2-28-1884

3. Ida Effie — Born: 10-11-1866, in Dallas Co., Iowa
Died: 3-16-1868, in Dallas Co., Iowa
Aged: 1 year, 5 months, 5 days

4. William Sherman — Born: 5-25-1869, in Dallas Co., Iowa
Died: 9-13-1870, in Dallas Co., Iowa
Aged: 1 year, 3 months, 18 days

5. Sarepta Jane (Jennie) — Born: 8-21-1871, in Dallas Co., Iowa
Married: John G. Cornelison on 1[illegible]-3-1912

6. Cora Lavona — Born: 4-21-1875, in Dallas Co., Iowa
Married: Ward E. Rusher 1-19-1899
Died: 2-11-1905

COFFIN FAMILY HISTORY

1-7

WILLIAM COFFIN #15[illegible]7243

William Coffin was born near New Lancaster, Madison Co., Indiana, on 1-17-1835, the third child of Harvey Coffin and Rachel Mills.

The following was copied from an old clipping, from The Dallas County Record, printed at Adel, Dallas Co., Iowa, under date of September 11, 1917.

In connection with the observance last week of the sixtieth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. William Coffin, we are pleased to publish this week a photo of Mr. and Mrs. Coffin. There are not many couples, who are permitted to enjoy 60 years of married life, and especially with as clean and good record in every way as have Mr. and Mrs. Coffin. So far as we can ascertain there has never been a smirch on the good name of Coffin during the long period the family have been residents of Dallas Co., which is a record of which to be proud.

Recognizing the value of long and well lived lives, and the advance age to which these good people have attained, we wish to give a brief outline of their history leading up to the celebration so happily carried out last week.

Mr. Coffin was born in Wayne Co., Indiana, (Genealogy gives he was born in Madison Co., Indiana) on the 17th of January, 1835. His parents were Harvey and Rachel (Mills) Coffin. The family moved to Iowa, in 1856, the father having before made three trips to the state to look for a location. He selected Jefferson Co., where he made his home, till the time of his death, which occured in 1873.

William Coffin was one of a family of eleven children and was reared on the old home farm in Indiana, where as a boy he attended school in the primitive log schoolhouse, sitting on a slab bench and studying by the light from windows, covered with greased paper. He considered himself fortunate if he could attend school as much as three months in a year. When he was twenty-one years old. he came with his father to Iowa, locating first in Jefferson Co., and then in May of 1857, to Dallas Co. He settled on eigaty acres of land in Adams Twp., which his father had entered from the Government the previous year.

After breaking twenty acres of the raw prarie, putting up hay for the winter, and getting logs to the mill, with which to build a house, he yoked his oxen and started to Jefferson Co., for his bride, who was a daughter of John and Malinda Shelley. They were married September 3, 1857, and a few days later started for their new home in Dallas Co., riding in a covered wagon, drawn by two yoke of oxen. Mr. Coffin made all the furniture they had in their first home, for more than a year, and it was several years before they were able to get store furniture of any consequence.

The privations and hardships of pioneer life were theirs, but their hearts were stout and their ambition exhaustless, which qualities brought them through all the trials of those days and enabled them to see the new country develop through the efforts of the hardy settlers.

WILLIAM COFFIN #58567243 (continued)

The spring of 1858 was very wet, and not much wheat was raised, which made it necessary for them to live on corn bread most of that year. It was difficult to get grinding done, because the water was too high for the water wheels to run. There was one steam mill on Middle River, but as there was not a bridge in the county, it was impossible to get to it.

At one time they lived on young chicken, and new potatoes for three days. Not bad eating, perhaps you think, but when you have it for breakfast, dinner and supper for a few days, it gets old.

On the evening of December 11, 1861, while Mr. and Mrs. Coffin were away from home, their house was entirely burned to the ground, together with all their clothing, the winter's provisions, etc. Through the kindness of a neighbor, Wesley Krysher, they were allowed to move into his smoke-house. Mr. Coffin at once began getting out new logs to have sawed for lumber, for a new house, but the winter was so severe and the river frozen over so solid, that no sawing could be done until spring.

On August 9th, 1862, Mr. Coffin and Mr. Krysher both enlisted to help fill the call for 300,000 men. Altho his new house was not completed, Mr. Coffin moved into it to stay until he would leave for the Army, at which time his wife expected to go to her folks until his return. They had lived in the house eight days when it was struck by lightning and badly wrecked. The storm occured at night and a young men named LeRoy McClellan was instantly killed. He had been making an evening call on a young lady, who was staying with the Coffin family, and when the storm came up he could not get home and the girl had made him a pallet on the floor. He had enlisted and was expecting to go with the other men to the front.

The lightning moved the bed in which Mr. and Mrs. Coffin were sleeping several inches, but fortunately did not injure them. It broke all the dishes, but one saucer, which was quite a loss, as they had six plates, three cups and saucers, and two or three milk crocks.

Soon after this, Mr. Coffin left for the camp at Fort Des Moines, and from there on South. He was with Sherman on his March to the Sea, up through the Carolinas, and on to Washington, having part in the grand review on Pennsylvania Avenue.

After his discharge he was on the first train bringing soldiers to Iowa. He stopped a few days in Jefferson Co., where his wife and children had been staying, then on to Dallas Co., and home.

After the War, Mr. and Mrs. Coffin lived on the farm until 1881, when they moved to Adel. They lived here 7 years when, because of the fact that their son, Henry, who had been living on the home place, had bought a farm of his own and they moved back to their first home. Some years later they again moved to Adel, where they have since lived.

Mr. and Mrs. Coffin were the parents of 6 children, two of whom, a boy and a girl, died in infancy; one daughter, who was Mrs. Ward Ruscher, was killed several years ago at a railroad crossing, in Adel; three are still living, the son, J. H., now living in Adel; and two daughters, Rachel M.,

WILLIAM COFFIN #1586 67243 (continued)

the wife of Alonzo McNichols, in Madison Co.; and Jennie, who is now the wife of John Cornelison, of Adel.

Mr. and Mrs. Coffin are members of the Methodist Church, of which organization Mr. Coffin has been a Steward, for forty years. In politics he is a Republican, and is strictly opposed to the liquor traffic. He has held the office of Township Clerk, several terms and is a man worthy of any trust that may be placed in him, having every quality necessary for full, true patriotic and Christian citizenship.

Mr. and Mrs. Coffin are worthy exponents of the best there is in the life of the American citizen. Having seen the trials and sorrows, also the victories and joys of the early days, they are now enjoying the well earned rest that comes to those who are faithful and energetic through the days of their pilgrimage. The early pioneer had many hardships, but also many blessings and the present generation owes much to the men and women who helped transform a wilderness into the glorious land which is ours today.

E L E V E N T H G E N E R A T I O N

COFFIN FAMILY HISTORY

JAMES HENRY COFFIN #158~~56~~67 2431

First child of William Coffin and Rachel Luzena Shelley

Born: 8-18-1858 near Adel, Dallas Co., Iowa

Died: 10-3-1926 at Adel, Dallas Co., Iowa

Aged: 68 years, 1 month and 15 days

Married: Mary Jane King on 3-22-1882
at Adel, Dallas Co., Iowa

Daughter of John V. (VanCleave?) King and Elizabeth Thorne
Born: 6-14-1858 near Adel, Dallas Co., Iowa
Died: 7-26-1912 at Adel, Dallas Co., Iowa
Aged: 54 years, 1 month, 12 days

Children

1. Mabel Ethel Born: 6-13-1883, in Greene Co., Iowa
11-4-1906 Married: Bert Gibler

2. Elva Luzena Born: 12-6-1884, in Dallas Co., Iowa
4-19-1905 Married: (1) Don Emmet DeCamp
12- -1912 (2) Floyd Kennedy

3. James Melvin Born: 4-11-1886, in Dallas Co., Iowa
12-6-1904 Married: Iva Coral Hoeye

4. Effie Elizabeth (Bess) Born: 12-12-1887, in Dallas Co., Iowa
11-25-1908 Married: Jessie Cecil Harvey

5. John William Born: 5-28-1889, in Dallas Co., Iowa
Died: --
Aged: Young

6. Cora Belle Born: 7-21-1891, in Dallas Co., Iowa
11-23-1910 Married: Walter F. Kennedy

7. Clarence Burton Born: 9-28-1895, in Dallas Co., Iowa
Married: Bertha Leona Sheets

8. Henry Virgil Born: 10-6-1895, in Dallas Co., Iowa
Married: Marvel Landis

9. Harold Linden Born: 3-31-1898, in Dallas Co., Iowa
Married: (1) Naomi Burkhead
(2)
(3)

10. Leona Ruth Born: 7-22-1900, in Dallas Co., Iowa
9-28-1921 Married: Philip Cook Macy #61894935

67

JAMES HENRY COFFIN #158~~5~~72431

James Henry Coffin was born near Adel, Dallas Co., Iowa, on August 18, 1858, the first child of William Coffin and Rachel Luzena Shelley.

If he was born on the original homestead of William Coffin, it is located about 4 miles southwest of Adel.

This homestead was owned by William Coffin for many years, as I remember it being said, when he sold the farm, that the abstract showed only where he had received his patent from the Government. He rented the farm for many years, after he had retired from farming, before he sold it.

From the data I have gathered on James Henry Coffin, it appears that he and Mary Jane King, were married in Dallas Co., Iowa, on March 22, 1882, but as their first child was born in Greene Co., he must have started farming for himself in that county.

As their second child was born in Dallas Co., it must have been that they only stayed in Greene Co., for a short time, and then returned to Dallas Co.

"Henry and Jane" as they were familiarly known, were always ready to help their neighbors, and in sickness "Henry" was always there to see what could be done to help the ailing ones.

It was a community custom, when I was a boy during the "nineties", that when a person was sick, (very few went to a hospital, as the nearest one was at Des Moines, about 30 miles away, which was a long distance then) the neighbors took turns "staying up" with the sick person at night, so the family could get some rest, to be able to carry on during the day.

Every one always looked to "Henry" to have him help, by arranging the list of people to be there on a certain night, and in this way all didn't go on the same night, and then be several nights, no one would be there to help.

In the case of a death, "Henry," could always find ways to make arrangements for the funeral, by getting some to dig the grave, and others to help out in what else had to be done.

Now days these are things no one thinks about, as the patient goes to the hospital, and in case of death, the undertaker takes over.

"Henry and Jane" were members of the United Brethern Church, at Panther Creek, in Dallas Co., about 5 miles west of Adel, on the "Old State Road."

Will here mention that at that time, there were four churches affiliated on a circuit, they being the Panther Creek Church, the Pleasant Hill Church, the Hickory Grove Church, and the South Coon Chapel.

JAMES HENRY COFFIN #158~~7~~67 2451 (continued)

Now, all these churches have disappeared, the buildings having either been torn down, or moved away. This is one of the things happening everywhere, as the Modern Way is to centralize everything into larger groups, thereby eliminating the small neighborhood gatherings.

"Henry" was very active in church work, being a member of the United Brethern Gospel Team, for several years. (I am not able to give the exact time on this, as I left Iowa in 1917, but believe it was about this time, or a little earlier, that the Gospel Team was organized).

As I look back over the years, I realize that couples like "Henry and Jane", would be hard to find, at this time, as everyone is so busy with their own affairs, that they do not have time (or don't take time), to help their neighbors when they have trouble, and in the large cities, people do not even know their closest neighbors, and in many cases, do not even want to know them.

"Henry and Jane" had 10 children, who all grew to man and womanhood (except one son, William, who died in infancy) on their farm home in Adams Twp., Dallas Co.

These all married and while some still live in Dallas Co., the rest have scattered to other states, where they have established homes of their own.

"Henry and Jane" both died in Dallas Co., bringing to a close, a life devoted to their family, their neighbors, and their Master.

Written by Aaron Macy, at Livingston, Montana, on November 22, 1951, for a COFFIN FAMILY HISTORY, presented to my nephew, Philip Ross Macy, a child of Ruth, child #10, in the family of "Henry and Jane".

Following is the closing paragraph to Philip Ross Macy.

And now in closing this biography of "Henry and Jane", which I am enclosing in a COFFIN FAMILY HISTORY, for Philip Ross Macy, whose mother, Leona Ruth Coffin Macy, was the youngest child of "Henry and Jane", I only ask that he will try to be a living example of his grandparents, "Henry and Jane."

(Mr. Aaron Macy typed four copies of the Coffin family genealogy for those in his family who were interested.)

58 69 72432

RACHEL MELINDA COFFIN

Second child of William Coffin and Rachel Luzena Shelley

Born: January 21, 1860 in Dallas County, Iowa

Died: September 6, 1943

Married: Alonzo J. McNichols on February 28, 1884

Children:

1.	Ray Eugene McNichols	Born:	February 6, 1885
		Married:	Mable Prouty on June 19, 1915
		Died:	December 25, 1952
2.	William Ross McNichols	Born:	November 24, 1889
		Married:	Verne May Leach, September 3, 1912
		Died:	December 12, 1957
3.	John Royal McNichols	Born:	December 14, 1889
		Married:	Bertha Richardson, June 12, 1912
			Nina Holdeman, May 14, 1949
4.	Mary Luzena McNichols	Born:	July 3, 1891
		Married:	Grover White Davis, January 7, 1915

158 67 72435

DARETHA JANE COFFIN

Fifth child of William Coffin and Rachel Luzena Shelly

Born: August 21, 1871

Died: November 5, 1953

Married: John G. Cornelison on October 5, 1911

Children:

1. Lavona Cornelison (Adopted) — Born: June 23, 1913; Married: John Bradford Chapman, June 21, 1933

2. Esther Cornelison (Adopted)

TWELFTH GENERATION

15-8 67 7 4 3 2 1

RAY EUGENE MCNICHOLS

First child of Alonzo J. McNichols and Rachel Melinda Coffin

Born: February 6, 1885

Died: December 25, 1952

Married: Mable Prouty on June 19, 1915

Children:

1. Dwight Prouty McNichols	Born:	October 20, 1916
	Married:	Elizabeth Lucille Schaefer, March 3, 1945
2. Nyal Ray McNichols	Born:	July 19, 1919
	Married:	Eleanor Helen Hart, July 21, 1945
3. Marguerite McNichols (Adopted)	Born:	February 6, 1920
	Married:	Richard Eben, October, 1940

Second child of Alonzo J. McNichols and Rachel Melinda Coffin

Born: November 24, 1888

Died: December 12, 1937

Married: Verna May Leach, September 3, 1912.

Children:

1.	Wilma Lucile McNichols	Born:	July 27, 1913
		Married:	Homer H. Loomis
2.	Irene May McNichols	Born:	December 24, 1915
		Died:	November 24, 1916
3.	Wilbur William McNichols	Born:	January 20, 1920
		Married:	Florence Cuessford, August 20, 1946
4.	Ethel Loraine McNichols	Born:	August 20, 1921
		Married:	Mervyn R. Armstrong, February 3, 195[illegible]
5.	Willard Ray McNichols	Born:	September 11, 1925
		Married:	Virginia Durand, June 15, 1947
6.	Iola Vivian McNichols	Born:	September 28, 1927
		Died:	June 20, 1928
7.	Blanche Marine McNichols	Born:	June 20, 1931
		Married:	Willis F. White, December 15, 1946
8.	Kenneth Wayne McNichols	Born:	April 14, 1936
		Married:	Joyce McKansy, June 18, 1957

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JOHN ROYAL McNICHOLS

Third child of Alonzo J. McNichols and Rachel Melinda Coffin

Born: December 14, 1889

Died:

Married: Bertha Richardson on June 19, 1912
Hana Holdeman on May 13, 1949

Children:

1. Bernard Clark McNichols — Born: December 8, 1913
Married: Myra Melinda Schmidt
August 12, 1938

2. Lester Royal McNichols — Born: June 25, 1918
Married: Doris G. Rishel
July 10, 1939

158 67 2.4324

MARY LEZENA MCNICHOLS

Fourth child of Alonzo J. McNichols and Rachel Melinda Coffin

Born: July 3, 1891

Died:

Married: Grover White Davis, January 7, 1915

Children:

1.	Boyd Alonzo Davis (Adopted)	Born: September 25, 1918
2.	Otto Lee Davis	Born: May 25, 1920 Married: Evelyn Shelly, October 11, 1942
3.	Millie Alene Davis	Born: October 2, 1921 Married: Stephen Crouse, August 27, 1938
4.	Leona May Davis	Born: May 17, 1927 Married: Robert Brintnall, August 21, 1949

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LEONA RUTH COFFIN #1585724310

Tenth child of James Henry Coffin and Mary Jane King

Born: July 22, 1900 near Adel, Dallas County, Iowa

Died:

Married: Phillip Cook Macy #61094935 on September 28,1921

Son of Joseph Hooker Macy and Rosa Ellen Cook
(#6189493) (#5518711)

Born: August 16,1897 near Adel, Dallas County, Iowa

Died:

Children:

1. Phillip Ross Macy Born: January 3, 1930
Married: Norma Jeanne Rogers

1963 Address

3208 Urander Avenue
Vancouver, Washington

158 67 351

RACHEL CORNELISON

First child of John G. Cornelison and Sarepta Jane Coffin

Born: June 23, 1913

Died:

Married: John Bradford Chapman on August 8, 1932

Children:

1. John Bradford Chapman — Born: June 21, 1933; Married: Donna Lee Griffin, September 6, 1953

John Van Cleave } Mary Van Cleave's
Eunice Ponder } parents

It seems that John Van Cleave's sister Jane married Squire Boone whose brother was Daniel Boone's ancestor

Cornelius King }
Mary Van Cleave } John V. King's parents

John V. King B. 4-23-1825 D. 2-12-08
M. 4-5-1855
Elizabeth A. Thorne B. 11-11-1838
D. 8-1-'04

John Thorne } Geo Thorne's parents
Ellen Palmer }

Geo Thorne B. 10-26-1808
M. 4-12-1835
Eliza Jane Hall B. 6-25-1807
Elizabeth A Thorne's parents

John V. King was born in Ind. 4-23 1825
He was a veteran of the Mexican War
He came to Monroe Co. Iowa 1848
Two years later to Dallas Co Iowa
In 1851 he took a land claim, with the veterans land warrant.
He lived on this land the rest of his life. One mile south of the old UB Panther Creek Church

Macy

From Ruth Coffin Macy grand dau of John V King
1960

Eliza E. King 8-14-56 #1586772431
m James Henry Coffin
Mary J. King 6-14-58 (Coffin)
Geo W. King 11-30-59
Sarah F. King 4-19-61
Lydia B. King 7-16-63
Charles W. King 6-2-65
Phebe Tilton King 4-17-67 D. 4-29-54 m 9-25-89
Zenelda M. King 4-4-70

m ① John Jonathan Macy son Aaron Macy & Elizabeth Smith

158 ~~07~~ 67 : 4352

ESTHER CORNELISON

Second child of John G. Cornelison and Sarepta Jane Coffin

Born:

Died:

Married:

Children:

THIRTEENTH GENERATION

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158 ~~54~~ 2 4 3 2 1 1

DWIGHT PROUTY MCNICHOLS

First child of Ray Eugene McNichols and Mable Prouty

Born: October 20, 1916

Died:

Married: Elizabeth Lucille Schaefer on March 3, 1945

Children:

1. Suzanne Louise McNichols — Born: January 5, 1946

2. Ray Dwight McNichols — Born: May 14, 1948

3. Cheryl Lyn McNichols — Born: October 31, 1951

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158 7 2 4 3 2 1 2

RYAL RAY MCNICHOLS

Second child of Ray Eugene McNichols and Mable Prouty

Born: July 19, 1919

Died:

Married: Eleanor Helen Hart on July 21, 1945

Children:

1. Elaine Louise McNichols — Born: January 6, 1952

2. Donald Hart McNichols — Born: June 5, 1957

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158 567 24 32 13

MARGUERITE McNICHOLS

Third child of Ray Eugene McNichols and Mable Prouty

Born: February 6, 1920

Died:

Married: Richard Eben on October ____ 1940

Children:

1. Genice Marguerite Eben — Born: April 19, 1943; Married: Kenneth Armstrong, June 30, 1962
2. Dennis Martin Eben — Born: January 10, 1945
3. Wesley Karl Eben — Born: December 22, 1947
4. Herman Eugene Eben — Born: April 10, 1949

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1358 67 2 4 3 2 2 1

WILMA LUCILE McNICHOLS

First child of William Ross McNichols and Verna May Leach

Born: July 27, 1913

Died:

Married: Homer Hill Loomis on December 24, 1938

Children:

1. Charles Wayne Loomis — Born: March 17, 1940; Married: Darlene Kay Bennett, June 17, 1961

2. Homer Dean Loomis — Born: April 2, 1943

3. Lois Arlene Loomis — Born: August 30, 1949

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158 ~~56~~ 7 24 3 2 2

WILBUR WILLIAM MCNICHOLS

Third child of William Ross McNichols and Verna May Leach

Born: January 20, 1920

Died:

Married: Florence Guessford on August 20, 1946

Children:

1. Melvin Ross McNichols Born: March 15, 1948

2. Marylyn Jane McNichols Born: May 11, 1952

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158[illegible]7243[illegible]

EBBEL LORAINE McNICHOLS

Fourth child of William Ross McNichols and Verna May Leach

Born: August 20, 1921

Died:

Married: Marvyn Riley Armstrong on February 5, 1950

Children:

1. Loretta Diann Armstrong — Born: March 25, 1948

2. Linda Kay Armstrong — Born: November 17, 1950

3. Kenneth Marvyn Armstrong — Born: February 5, 1954

WILLARD RAY MCNICHOLS

Fifth child of William Ross McNichols and Verna May Leach

Born: September 11, 1925

Died:

Married: Virginia Durand on June 15, 1947

Children:

1. John Jay McNichols — Born: August 28, 1950
2. George Durand McNichols — Born: May 23, 1954
3. Janett Kay McNichols — Born: September 28, 1958

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BLANCHE MAXINE MCNICHOLS

Seventh child of William Ross McNichols and Verna May Leach

Born: June 20, 1931

Died:

Married: Willis Francis White on December 15, 1946

Children:

1. Patricia Kay White — Born: June 25, 1950 Died: June 27, 1950

2. Gayla Joe White — Born: December 12, 1954

3. Joyce Ann White — Born: December 30, 1956

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1585672432 28

KENNETH WAYNE McNICHOLS

Eighth child of William Ross McNichols and Verne May Leach

Born: April 14, 1936

Died:

Married: Joyce McKenney on June 18, 1957

Children:

1. Mikel Wayne McNichols — Born: July 25 1959

2. Vickie Lynn McNichols — Born: May 25, 1962

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7543231

EDWARD CLAY McNICHOLS

First child of John Royal McNichols and Bertha Laura Richardson

Born: December 6 1913

Died:

Married: Myra Schmidt on August 12, 1938

Children:

1. Sandra Lee McNichols — Born: May 23 1941; Married: Jim Disberg, September 29, 1962

2. Barry John McNichols — Born: June 9 1945

3. Debbie Jean McNichols — Born: February 16, 1953

158 67 2 4 3 2 3 2

LESTER ROYAL MCNICHOLS

Second child of John Royal McNichols and Bertha Richardson

Born: June 25, 1918

Died:

Married: Doris G. Rishel on July 10, 1939

Children:

1. Susan Kay McNichols (Adopted) — Born: October 29, 1942; Married: Douglas L. Peacock January 26, 1963

67
156-54724 3142

Billy and DAVIS

Second child of Grover Cleveland Davis and Mary L. McNicholas

Born: May 25, 1920

Died:

Married: Velma Shelly on October 11, 1942

Children:

1. Laura Aileen Davis — Born: Aug. 29, 1941
2. Anita Louise Davis — Born: June 9, 1945
3. Kirsten Lee Davis — Born: September 15, 1950

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WILLIE ALENE DAVIS

Third child of Grover White Davis and Mary L. McNichols

Born: October 2, 1921

Died:

Married: Stephen Aldrich Crouse on August 27, 1938

Children:

1. Lu Ann Crouse — Born: April 12, 1940
2. Dennis Willie Crouse — Born: March 30, 1951
3. Eugene Grover Crouse — Born: April 29, 1957

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158-7243204

LEONA MAY DAVIS

Fourth child of Grover White Davis and Mary L. McNichols

Born: May 17, 1927

Died:

Married: Robert Brintnall on August 21, 1949

Children:

1. Melody Lynn Brintnall — Born: December 16, 1957

2. Tawana Sue Brintnall — Born: March 26, 1959

PHILLIP ROSS MACY #[illegible]

First child of Leona Ruth Coffin and Phillip Cook Macy

Born: January 3, 1930 near Jolley, Calhoun County, Iowa

Died:

Married: Norma Jeanne Rogers on March 23, 1951 at Vancouver, Washington

Daughter of Frank Charles Rogers and Louise Adeline Bohlen

Born: January 27, 1932

Children:

1. Mural Dale Macy Born: August 22, 1953

2. Melanie Denise Born: August 22, 1961

1963 Address

4850 Normandie Place
La Mesa, California

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158 ~~56~~ 7243511

JOHN BRADFORD CHAPMAN

Only child of John Bradford Chapman and Lavona Cornelison

Born: June 21, 1933

Died:

Married: Donna Lee Griffin on September 6, 1953

Children:

1. John Bradford Chapman II — Born: March 9, 1956
2. Susan Kathleen Chapman — Born: August 8, 1957
3. Amy Elizabeth Chapman — Born: December 25, 1959

F O U R T E E N T H G E N E R A T I O N

(Make a sheet for each married child)

67
158567243-131

[illegible]

First child of Richard [illegible] and Margarette Hollichole

Born: April 19, 1943

Died:

Married: Kenneth Armstrong on June [illegible], 1963

Children:

67
158 ~~56~~ 7243 221

CHARLES WAYNE LOOMIS

First child of Homer Hill Loomis and Wilma Lucile McNichols

Born: March 17, 1940

Died:

Married: Darlene Kay Bennett on June 17, 1961

Children:

67
158 ~~56~~ 7243 2311

SANDRA LEE McNICHOLS

First child of Bernard Clark McNichols and Myrn Schmidt

Born: May 25, 1941

Died:

Married: Jim Eisberg on September 25, 1962

Children:

67
1 5 8 ~~5 6~~ 7 2 4 3 2 3 2 1

SUSAN KAY MCNICHOLS

Only child of Lester Royal McNichols and Loris Rishol

Born: October 29, 1942

Died:

Married: Douglas L. Peacock on January 26, 1963

Children:

4469